

Wednesday - 30 April 1975

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14. Alerted Frank Slatinshek, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, of the request we had received from David Breasted, in the office of Representative Les Aspin (D., Wis.), for whatever information the Agency had on the Soviet's nerve gas capability. I explained that the information we had involved classified information at the compartmented level and Slatinshek agreed that they had received a good deal of information on this subject from the DIA and CIA and that in line with our guidelines of the Committee, we should refer Representative Aspin to the Committee for whatever information he desires.

Later, I was assured by Carl Weber, DDS&T, that the information that had been provided to the Committee by DIA actually constituted all that we know about the subject and is current and up-to-date.

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15. In the absence of Mr. Cary, spoke to David Breasted, in the office of Representative Les Aspin (D., Wis.), and told him that the information we had on the subject of Soviet nerve gas capability involved classified compartmented information which has already been provided to the House Armed Services Committee and I recommended that Mr. Aspin obtain that information directly from that Committee rather than our providing it to him. Breasted was initially somewhat hostile in this and in another follow up call Breasted was again hostile but I explained that our interest was simply related to the intelligence sources and methods part of the equation and that we were following the guidelines laid down by congressional committees in consonance with the Director's statutory responsibilities. Breasted felt we were playing a game to deny him information commenting that his prospects were poor in obtaining this information from the Armed Services Committee. I pointed out to him that I had been at Mr. Aspin's office in the company of one of our briefers to provide information to Mr. Mark Kliman on the Soviet Defense budget and Breasted was unaware and surprised that we had done this and then seemed to understand that our interest was not to deny information but to protect our capability to obtain information.

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21.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] OCI, advised that Charles Snodgrass, House Appropriations Committee staff, would like a session at 0930 tomorrow morning to review the Soviet defense spending paper.

[REDACTED] OER, is scheduled to attend.

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